

II. Translators and Interpreters

Translators and interpreters work with languages, but in very different ways: the key difference is that translators work with written words and interpreters work with spoken words. Let's look at some other important differences between translation and interpreting.

Translators write and interpreters talk—now you know more than most people about our industry! In addition, most translators work in only one “direction”: for example from English into Japanese or from Japanese into English. If you search for a translator in the American Translators Association's online directory, you'll see that you can choose the “from” and “into” languages that you need. In the industry, these are often referred to as the source (from) and target (into) languages. So, a client who needs a document translated from French into English and then a response document translated from English into French generally needs two different translators. Most translators work into their native language only since it's faster and easier to write in one's native language. Of course there are exceptions: If someone was brought up in, say, a Spanish-speaking household and considers that their native language, but they did their studies in English, they may prefer translating into English. Or they may be equally comfortable translating into either language.

Most interpreters work bi-directionally, meaning that one interpreter often works from English into Spanish and from

Spanish into English. For example in court interpreting, nearly every interpreter works alone, interpreting in both “directions” for all of the parties involved. There are also various modes of interpreting—the main ones being consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting and sight translation. If you’ve seen movies such as “The Interpreter,” you’ve seen simultaneous interpreting in action, with the speaker and the interpreter seeming to talk at once, sometimes using microphones and headsets to hear each other. In reality, simultaneous interpreters use a technique called *décalage* (French for “time delay”), meaning that the interpreter deliberately lags a few words behind the speaker in order to correctly interpret a complete phrase or thought. In consecutive interpreting, one person speaks at a time, and then waits for the interpreter to interpret. This may require extensive note-taking on the part of the interpreter, and of course it also takes at least twice as long as simultaneous interpreting. Finally, sight translation is the oral interpretation of a written text—for example if a judge gives a court interpreter a document in English and asks her to read it to the defendant in Portuguese.

<http://theatacompass.org/2013/06/20/what-is-the-difference-between-translation-and-interpreting/>

Reading Guidelines:

Always read the text more than once to have a general idea about the whole text. You may do silent and loud reading. Both are useful but for different ends. Underline the difficult words, expressions and constructions to investigate

Q.I Give the exact meaning of the following words first in English and second in Arabic: key, differences, direction, search, online, source, target, client, response, document, parties, consecutive, simultaneous, time delay, deliberately, lags...behind, extensive, sight.

Q.II Derive as many words as you can from the following words: important, direction, choose, referred, action, require, long.

Q.III Give the opposites of the words below and use them in good English sentences of your own: different, online, native, comfortable, various, correctly, extensive, finally.

Q.IV Answer the following questions briefly:

1. What is the key difference between translators and interpreters?
2. What does the writer mean by the words "our industry" and "the industry"?
3. What is meant by source and target languages?
4. Why do most translators translate into their native languages?
5. What is meant by 'bi-directionally'?
6. What are the main modes of interpreting?
7. What personal pronoun does the writer use to replace the word interpreter? Why?

Q.V Re-read the first paragraph and try to analyze it in terms of the individual words and in terms of the type of

sentences (simple, compound and complex) and translate it into Arabic.

Research Activity:

As it has been shown above, interpreting has different modes. Can you find different categories in translating?

Quote of the Day:

Without translation, we would be living in provinces bordering on silence

George Steiner